

Application No.: 10/693271
Amendment dated: November 11, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 30, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form by the incorporation of all of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 1, 9, 13 and 17 have been cancelled.

The rejections of claim 2 are based on Hansen alone, or on Eklund in view of Hansen. The rejections of claims 10, 14 and 18, each of which is dependent on claim 2, are based on Hansen in view of admitted prior art, or on Eklund in view of Hansen and admitted prior art. Thus, each of the grounds of rejection applicable to claims 10, 14 and 18 is dependent on Hansen.

A verified translation of the priority application, (Japanese application serial number 310008/2002) is submitted herewith, and establishes that the Applicants' priority date, October 24, 2002, precedes Hansen's filing date, November 15, 2002. Assuming that the translation is accepted, it effectively eliminates Hansen as prior art, and overcomes all of the grounds of rejection applied to claims 2, 10, 14 and 18.

Concerning the limitations of claim 2, support may be found for the 9 dtex or less limitation in the translation at page 11, lines 1-3 of part [0027], and in claim 2 on page 1 of the translation. Support for the limitation by which the fibers of the nonwoven fabric are finer than those of the batt is found at page 8, in lines 7 and 8 of part [0019].

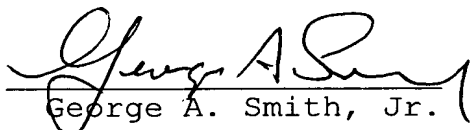
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Concerning the limitations of claims 10. 14 and 18, support may be found on page 15, in part [0037] and in claim 5 on page 1 of the translation.

The amendment herein involves only the cancellation of claims, and the rewriting of claim 2 in independent form, without any change in its scope or in the scope of any other claim. The evidence (the translation) is necessary in order to establish that Hansen is not applicable as prior art, and was not presented earlier because Hansen had not been cited. The amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance without requiring detailed reconsideration by the Examiner.

Therefore, it is submitted that the amendment can properly be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, and the issuance of a notice of allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWSON & HOWSON

By 
George A. Smith, Jr.
Reg. No. 24,442
Howson & Howson
Box 457
Spring House, PA 19477
Telephone: 215 540 9200
Facsimile: 215 540 5818

Enclosure